

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An electromagnetic contactor for an electric starter motor, said electromagnetic contactor comprising:

connection terminals configured to connect to the battery and to the electric motor,
a movable core,
a main stationary core,
an axial air gap provided between the movable core and the main stationary core,
a tubular coil to produce a magnetic current in the air gap provided between the movable core and the main stationary core during excitation,
a magnetic circuit provided with a case constructed with magnetic frame attached to the stationary core,
an insulating cap enclosing the contacts of the electric power circuit and having connection terminals intended for connection to the battery and the electric motor, said case being composed of a metal bell-shaped housing,
an internal ferrule made of magnetic material surrounding the coil, and
a washer acting as an additional stationary core through which the movable core passes, and arranged opposite the main stationary core,
wherein the metal housing of the case comprises an annular rib extending continuously opposite the cylindrical periphery of the main stationary core, said annular rib having an internal diameter respectively greater than that of the ferrule and smaller than that of the housing, so as to ensure the locking of the different parts of the case, and
wherein an outer periphery of the main stationary core is in close contact with the inside periphery of the annular rib.

2. (Currently Amended) An electromagnetic contactor for an electric starter motor, said electromagnetic contactor comprising:

connection terminals configured to connect to the battery and to the electric motor;
a movable core;
a main stationary core;

an axial air gap provided between the movable core and the main stationary core;
a tubular coil to produce a magnetic current in the air gap provided between the movable
core and the main stationary core during excitation;
a magnetic circuit provided with a case constructed with magnetic frame attached to the
stationary core;
an insulating cap enclosing the contacts of the electric power circuit and having
connection terminals intended for connection to the battery and the electric motor,
said case being composed of a metal bell-shaped housing;
an internal ferrule made of magnetic material surrounding the coil; and
a washer acting as an additional stationary core through which the movable core passes,
and arranged opposite the main stationary core,
wherein the metal housing of the case comprises an annular rib extending continuously
opposite the cylindrical periphery of the main stationary core, said annular rib
having an internal diameter respectively greater than that of the ferrule and
smaller than that of the housing, so as to ensure the locking of the different parts
of the case,
wherein an outer periphery of the main stationary core is in close contact with the inside
periphery of the annular rib, and
~~The contactor of claim 1,~~ wherein ~~[[that]]~~ the annular rib ensures the locking of the
different parts of the case, as well as the crimping of the housing on the stationary
core-following local deformations exerted on the reduced diameter of the swaged
part defining the annular rib.

3. (Original) The contactor of claim 2, wherein the main stationary core is provided with radial cavities in which serrations produced by the crimping are embedded.
4. (Original) The contactor of claim 2, wherein the cap includes at least an axial stud intended to engage in a notch of the stationary core during assembly of the cap on the end of the housing.
5. (Original) The contactor of claim 4, wherein the notch that receives the stud is the same as a cavity of the stationary core.

6. (Original) The contactor of claim 1, wherein serrations are made after assembly on the end of the housing to immobilize the cap from rotation.
7. (Original) The contactor of claim 2, wherein serrations are made after assembly on the end of the housing to immobilize the cap from rotation.
8. (Original) The contactor of claim 3, wherein serrations are made after assembly on the end of the housing to immobilize the cap from rotation.
9. (Original) The contactor of claim 4, wherein serrations are made after assembly on the end of the housing to immobilize the cap from rotation.
10. (Original) The contactor of claim 5, wherein serrations are made after assembly on the end of the housing to immobilize the cap from rotation.
11. (New) The contactor of claim 1, wherein the annular rib is in contact with the free end of the internal ferrule to axially block said internal ferrule.
12. (New) The contactor of claim 11, wherein the main stationary core comprises a side plate and wherein the inside periphery of the annular rib includes a centering portion, which serves as centerer for the side plate.
13. (New) The contactor of claim 12, wherein the metal bell-shaped housing comprises an end plate with a central hole through which the movable core passes, wherein the annular rib comprises two sloping sides which extend on either side of the centering portion to define the annular rib with said centering portion, and wherein one of the two sloping sides is adjacent to the free end of the internal ferrule so that it presses the internal ferrule against the washer, which in turn is pressed against the end plate of the metal bell-shaped housing.
14. (New) The contactor of claim 13, wherein the centering portion is a cylindrical portion.

15. (New) The contactor of claim 12, wherein a thickness of the annular rib, measured in the axial direction, is less than or equal to the thickness of the side plate of the main stationary core.
16. (New) The contactor of claim 11, wherein the metal bell-shaped housing comprises an end plate with a central hole through which the main stationary core passes, and wherein said end plate is configured to form, centrally at an inner periphery of the end plate, an axial protrusion directed in the opposite direction of the washer.
17. (New) The contractor of claim 16, wherein a cut-off spring acts between the movable core and the metal bell-shaped housing, and wherein the axial protrusion serves as support for the other end of the spring so that said metal bell-shaped housing has an additional function.
18. (New) The contactor of claim 3, wherein the main stationary core comprises a side plate, and wherein the radial cavities are formed in the outer periphery of the side plate.